

Application no. 09/982,930
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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner has rejected claims 12 to 20 as unpatentable for obviousness and as not complying with 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over US Patent No. 4,616,891 to Jantzen ("Jantzen") in view of US Patent No. 4,259,755 to Hollander ("Hollander") and US Patent No. 5,458,409 to Sheng ("Sheng").

Claim 12 is now directed at a portable container unit, comprising a housing having opposing side walls, and a plurality of bins mounted between the side walls for rotation between closed and open positions, such that in the closed position, outer faces of the bins are generally coplanar, and in the open position, the outer faces each angle outwardly from the housing, thereby providing access into the bins, the bins being connected together for movement in unison, the outer faces occupying substantially all of a front portion of the housing, the housing further comprising connection means configured to engage connection means of a housing of another container unit.

Jantzen describes a storage cabinet having multiple storage compartments which all move together in unison if one of the compartments is opened or closed.

Hollander discloses the subject matter of storage bins being connected together for movement in unison to form a support for a bed. However, Hollander is directed at an article of modular furniture and not towards multiple compartment storage bins.

Sheng is directed at a container having multiple moving drawers. The drawers are all interconnected so that the opening of one drawer causes the other drawers to open and similarly with the closing of one of the drawers.

Applicant respectfully believes that Applicant's invention is patentable over Jantzen in view of both Hollander and Sheng. It is Applicant's submission that one who is skilled in the art would not combine the teachings of Jantzen and Hollander to arrive at Applicant's invention since Jantzen is directed at a stand alone storage cabinet having multiple storage compartments while Hollander is directed at a storage module which may be combined with other storage modules to form an even larger piece of furniture.

Although both Jantzen and Hollander are directed at storage compartments, they are directed at different types of storage capabilities. Furthermore, the storage modules described in Hollander are of different sizes with clips located at multiple positions. The focus of Hollander is to use the storage modules to build larger furniture. Storage modules 22 have clips on two adjacent sides while storage modules 20 have clips on opposite sides. Therefore, Applicant respectfully believes that one would not combine the teachings of Jantzen and Hollander since one skilled in the art would not place clips on adjacent sides of the storage cabinet described in Jantzen since one would not use the storage cabinets in Jantzen to build larger furniture. Also, since Jantzen describes a

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multiple compartment storage cabinet, the height of the outer wall created by the storage cabinets would not allow for anything to be placed within and would be hard to access.

Applicant respectfully submits that Sheng is quiet about the subject matter of clips for connecting multiple storage compartments together.

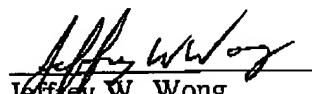
Furthermore, due to the portability of Applicant's invention, the connection means allow for frequent connection and disconnection between container units unlike the connection means which would be required in Hollander which is directed at furniture which would not be constantly moved from one place to another.

Applicant has added Claim 21 which Applicant believes is supported by Figure 33 and its corresponding description and that no new subject matter has been added with the addition of this new claim.

Retraction of Examiner's rejection of claims 12 to 20 is respectfully requested.

We look forward to further communication on this application.

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